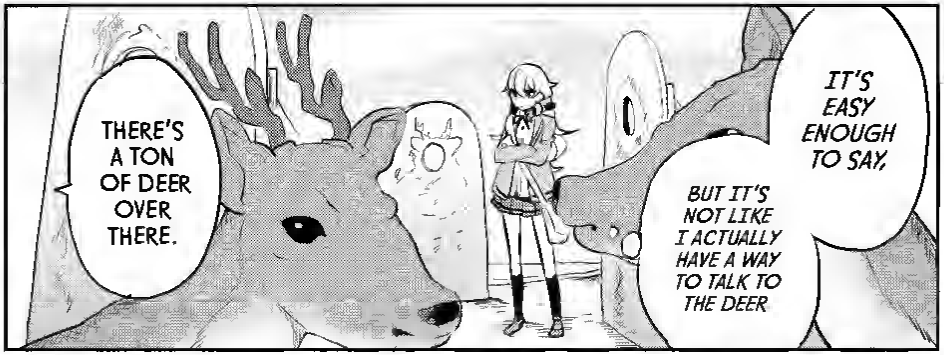
Takahashi-san
is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。

LOOK!
LOOK!
LOOK AT ALL THE DEER!
THEY'RE SO CUTE!
I'LL START US OFF BY BUYING DEER CRACKERS
I'LL BUY A HUNDRED AND TWENTY CRACKERS FOR ALL OF US!
DO YOU WANT US TO SPEND OUR WHOLE VACATION WITH THE DEER?!
DON'T GO ANY-WHERE!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO STAY PUT!
HA HA, YEAH... I'LL BE RIGHT HERE
AS IT TURNS OUT, I'M IN A BIT OF A BIND

CHAPTER 64: DAD JOKES AND THE SCHOOL TRIP

ALL I KNOW ABOUT SAEJIMA'S WHERE-ABOUTS...
...IS THAT SHE'S AT THE OFFICE IN KANSAI.
I DIDN'T EVEN BOTHER TO FIND OUT WHICH PREFECTURE.
I NEVER DREAMED THAT MY OLD AGENCY...
...HAD MULTIPLE LOCAL OFFICES.
BUT I CAN'T GIVE UP ALREADY.
I'LL JUST HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHERE SHE IS BY ASKING AROUND.
EXCUSE ME!
NEW YOU PHOTO-GRAPHY CORNER
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PERSON BEFORE?
NO, I'M AFRAID NOT.
I'VE NEVER SEEN HER.
I SEE.

BUT MAYBE THE DEER KNOW.
THEY SAY THAT...
...ANIMALS SEE EVERY-THING, AFTER ALL.
THE DEER?

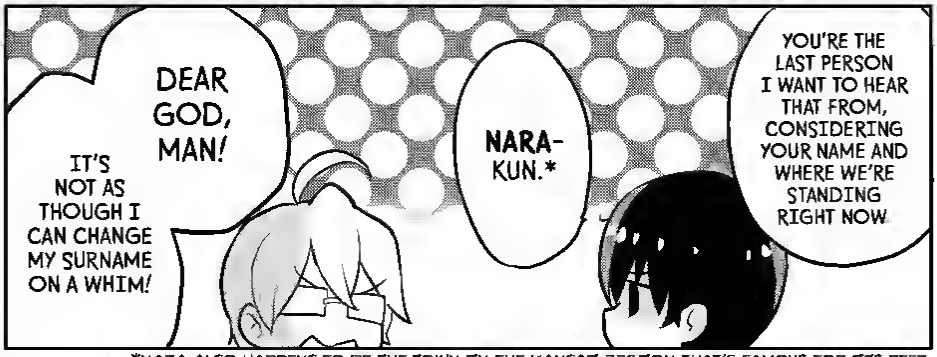

IT'S EASY ENOUGH TO SAY,
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I ACTUALLY HAVE A WAY TO TALK TO THE DEER
THERE'S A TON OF DEER OVER THERE.

WAIT.
MIKAGE, WAS THAT ON PUR-POSE?
FWIP

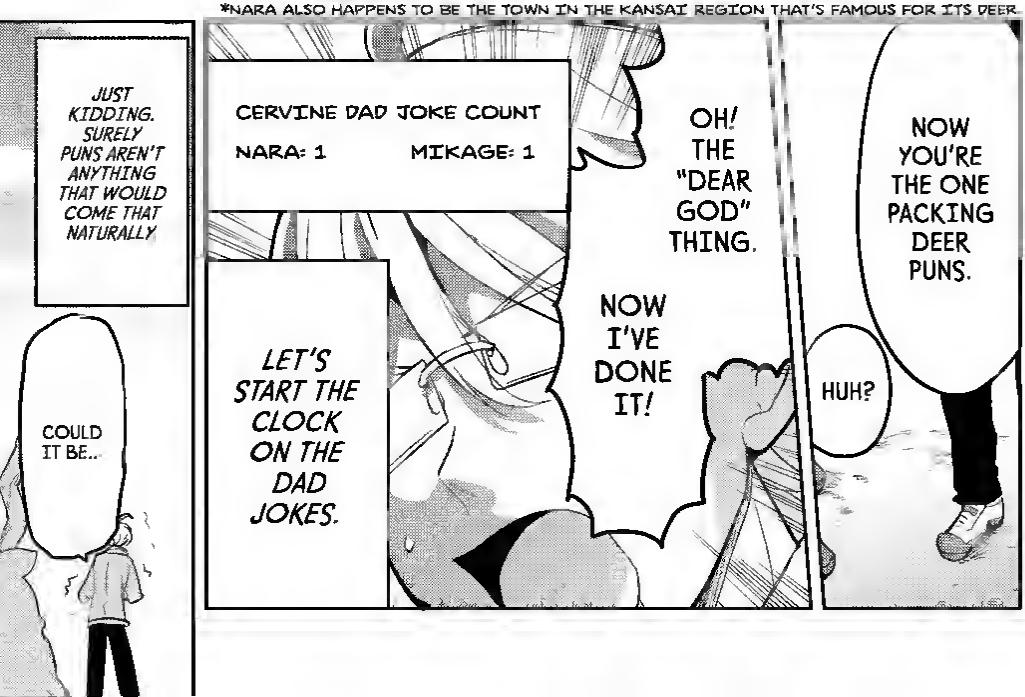
NARA-KUN AND MIKAGE-KUN.
SHOULD WE BUY SOME DEER CRACKERS?
I'LL PASS.
DEAR ME, LOOK AT HOW MUCH MONEY I HAVE LEFT.

THE DEER PART STUCK OUT TO ME.
WAS THAT SOME KIND OF DAD JOKE?
DAD JOKE?
WELCOME
YOU MEAN THE "DEAR ME" PART?
OH, HE THOUGHT IT WAS A LAME PUN.
DO YOU REALLY THINK I WOULD SO DEBASE MYSELF..
...AS TO EXPLOIT SUCH A WEAK PUN FOR LAUGHS?
SO WHAT? HE HAS COMEDY STANDARDS NOW?!
I SEE SO YOU DID IT WITH-OUT THINK-ING?
ONE CRACKER PER DEER A DAY
CRACKERS
HMM..
WELL, SOMETHING SEEMS TO BE HOLDING UP SAYAYA AND THE OTHERS

BESIDES...
AFTER ALL, I JUST SORT OF HAPPENED TO OVERHEAR THEM TALKING!
THIS MIGHT BE MY ONLY CHANCE TO EAVESDROP WHILE WE'RE HERE.
I'LL JUST LISTEN IN FOR A BIT!


DEAR GOD, MAN!
IT'S NOT AS THOUGH I CAN CHANGE MY SURNAME ON A WHIM!
NARA-KUN.*
YOU'RE THE LAST PERSON I WANT TO HEAR THAT FROM, CONSIDERING YOUR NAME AND WHERE WE'RE STANDING RIGHT NOW.

*NARA ALSO HAPPENS TO BE THE TOWN IN THE KANSAI REGION THAT'S FAMOUS FOR ITS DEER.


JUST KIDDING. SURELY PUNS AREN'T ANYTHING THAT WOULD COME THAT NATURALLY.
COULD IT BE...
LET'S START THE CLOCK ON THE DAD JOKES.
CERVINE DAD JOKE COUNT
NARA: 1
MIKAGE: 1
OH! THE "DEAR GOD" THING.
NOW I'VE DONE IT!
HUH?
NOW YOU'RE THE ONE PACKING DEER PUNS.

...THAT THE WORD DEER...
...IS THE EASIEST WORD IN THE WORLD TO ACCIDENTALLY MAKE A PUN WITH?
AND HERE OF ALL PLACES! WE'RE PRACTICALLY TRAPPED IN THIS DEER PARK.
HUH?! I GUESS I SPOKE TOO SOON! LET THE DEER PUNS...FLY?
DEER, HUH?
IT IS INNOCUOUS ENOUGH TO COMMANDEER A CONVERSATION
IT'S JUST AS YOU SAID
WAIT
MIKAGE! JUST NOW!
HE SLIPPED THAT COMMANDEER RIGHT IN THERE!
HUH?
OH... HOW COULD I HAVE DONE THAT?
CERVINE DAD JOKE COUNT
NARA: 1
MIKAGE: 2

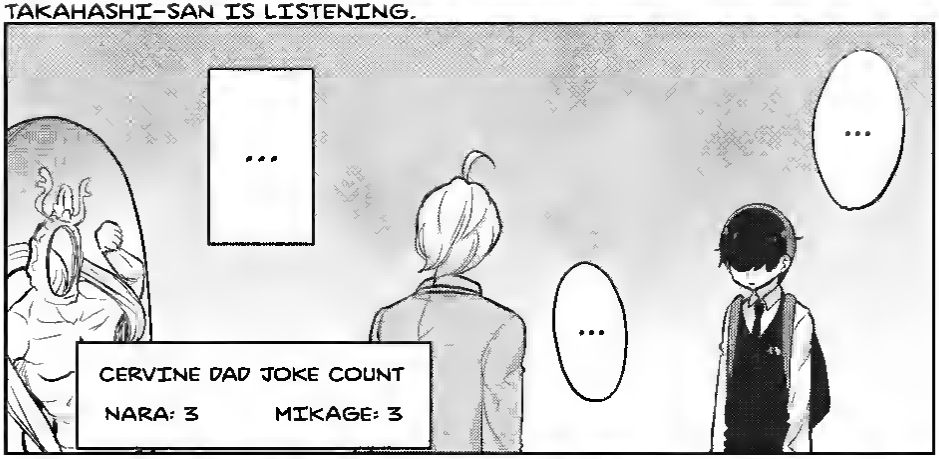
TAKAHASHI-SAN IS LISTENING.

I MEAN, THERE WEREN'T ANY DEER IN THAT, WERE THERE?
I'LL BE VIGILANT.
WE HAD BEST BE CAREFUL NOT TO DO IT TOO FREQUENTLY OR WE'LL BE OLD MEN BEFORE WE KNOW IT.
HE'S STARTING TO SOUND OVERLY CAUTIOUS NOW.
THERE WASN'T ONE HIDDEN IN THERE, WAS THERE?
YOU THINK?
I GUESS A FEW DAD JOKES HERE AND THERE ONLY SPICES THINGS UP.
...IF WE THINK ABOUT WHAT MAKES OUR GOLDEN YEARS SO ENDEARING...
HOWEVER...
HEH HEH HEH. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
IT WAS JUST A COUPLE OF LAME JOKES.
HE JUST MADE THE KIND OF BLUNDER HE MOST WANTED TO AVOID.
NARA-KUN, THAT WAS PAINFUL TO WATCH.
CERVINE DAD JOKE COUNT
NARA: 2
MIKAGE: 2

DON'T LET IT STAGGER YOU.
S-STAG...
...YEAH.
MIKAGE-KUN IS PUTTING PRESSURE ON NARA-KUN!
CERVINE DAD JOKE COUNT
NARA: 2
MIKAGE: 3

WOW! THEY'RE IN A NECK-AND-NECK RACE HERE!
LET'S SEE WHO CAN PULL AHEAD WITHOUT PULLING PUNCHES.
HMPH. I SEE WE'RE ON THE SAME LEVEL, MIKAGE
BE HONEST. YOU ACTUALLY LIKE DAD JOKES, DON'T YOU?
CELE-BRATE IT.
DON'T JUST GIVE ME...
...THAT DEER-IN-HEAD-LIGHTS LOOK.

TAKAHASHI-SAN IS LISTENING.

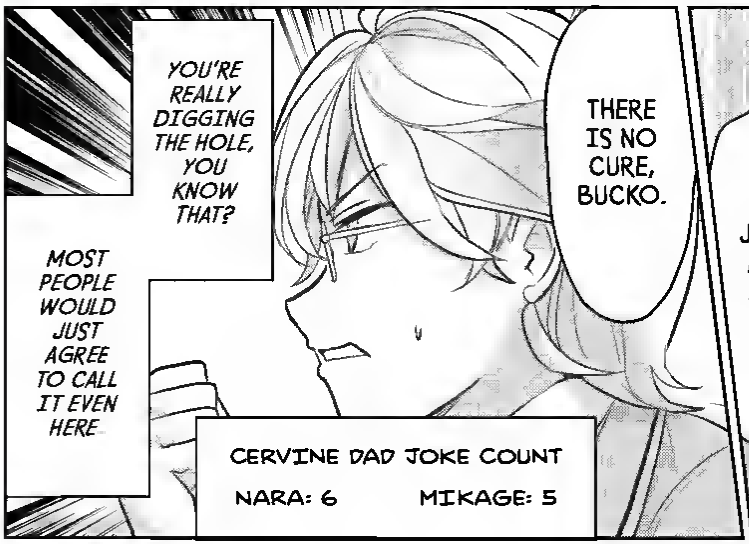


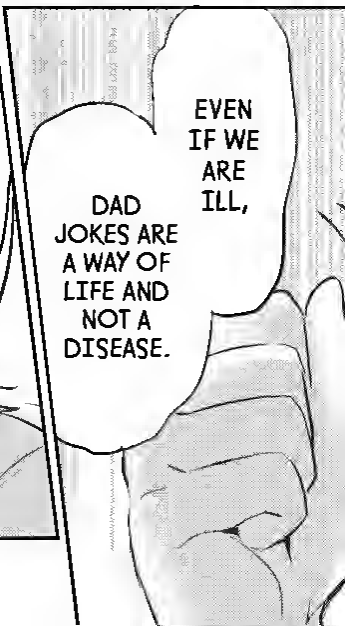
YEAH.
NO MATTER HOW PRE-CIOUS THEY ARE,
WE MUST BUCK ALL TEMPTA-TION.
WE SHOULD KEEP OUR DISTANCE TO PREVENT THIS FROM EVER HAPPENING AGAIN.
WE CAN'T FAWN OVER THESE ANIMALS FOREVER
NARA-KUN,
I'M SAYING THIS FOR BOTH OF OUR SAKES

WHY CAN'T WE STOP OUR-SELVES?
I WONDER. MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE WE'RE ON A TRIP?
OH DEAR...
THIS IS QUITE THE STRUGGLE FOR THEM.
CERVINE DAD JOKE COUNT
NARA: 4 MIKAGE: 4
OH DEAR...

MAYBE WE'RE SICK. THIS IS ALL STARTING TO FEEL STRANGELY CATHARTIC.
OH.
CATHARTIC! MIKAGE'S GUNNING FOR IT NOW TOO!
CERVINE DAD JOKE COUNT
NARA: 5 MIKAGE: 5

PERHAPS WE'VE JUST PUT OUR COMMON SENSE BEHIND US.
OH.
I GET IT. BEHIND.
THAT'S GETTING TRICKY. YOU'RE REALLY GOING FOR IT, AREN'T YOU?
CERVINE DAD JOKE COUNT
NARA: 5 MIKAGE: 4


YOU'RE REALLY DIGGING THE HOLE, YOU KNOW THAT?
MOST PEOPLE WOULD JUST AGREE TO CALL IT EVEN HERE
THERE IS NO CURE, BUCKO.
CERVINE DAD JOKE COUNT
NARA: 6 MIKAGE: 5


EVEN IF WE ARE ILL,
DAD JOKES ARE A WAY OF LIFE AND NOT A DISEASE.

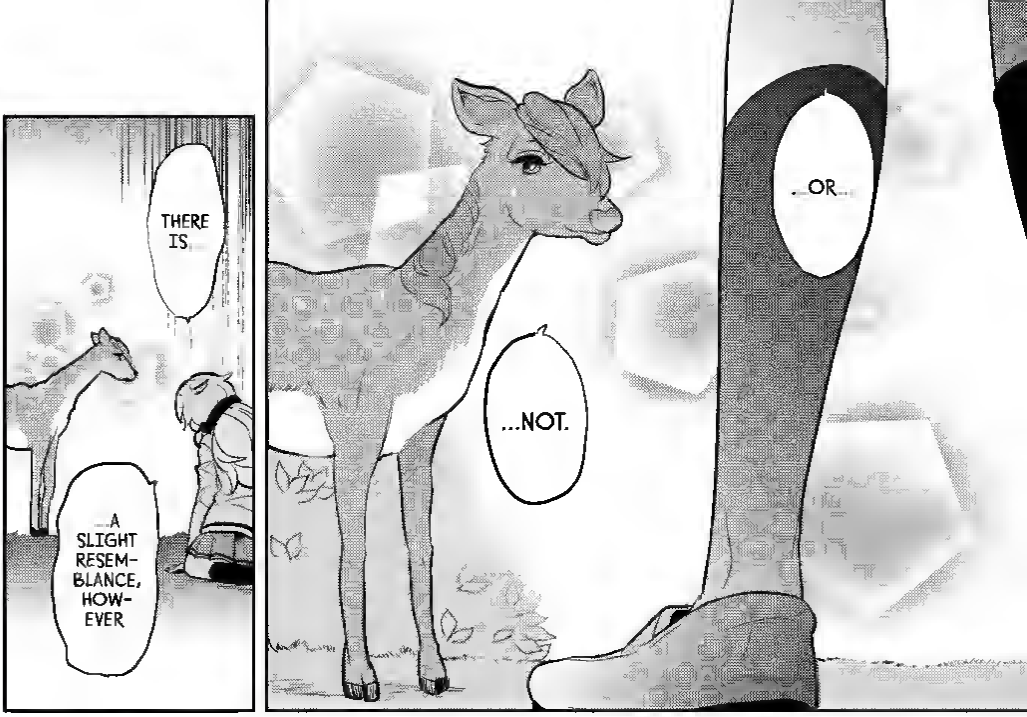
BUT NOT YOU TWO. IT'S LIKE YOU'RE COMPELLED TO PLAY IT OUT TO THE BITTER END.
UGH. THIS IS NO GOOD.
AT THIS RATE, WE'LL BE SENIORS OVER-NIGHT!
YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY TOO MUCH.
IT WILL JUST TAKE BOTH OUR BRAVADOES COMBINED TO ESCAPE THIS DEER TRAP.
THERE WAS A "DOE" IN THERE, WASN'T THERE?
IT ALMOST PUTS ME IN A SPORTING KIND OF MOOD.
CERVINE DAD JOKE COUNT
NARA: 6 MIKAGE: 6
I WANT TO KAYAK, EVEN IF IT'S DEERFLY SEASON!
WOW!
IT ONLY GETS WORSE THE MORE YOU FORCE IT.
YOU KNOW I'M NO GOOD AT SPORTS.
CERVINE DAD JOKE COUNT
NARA: 6 MIKAGE: 7

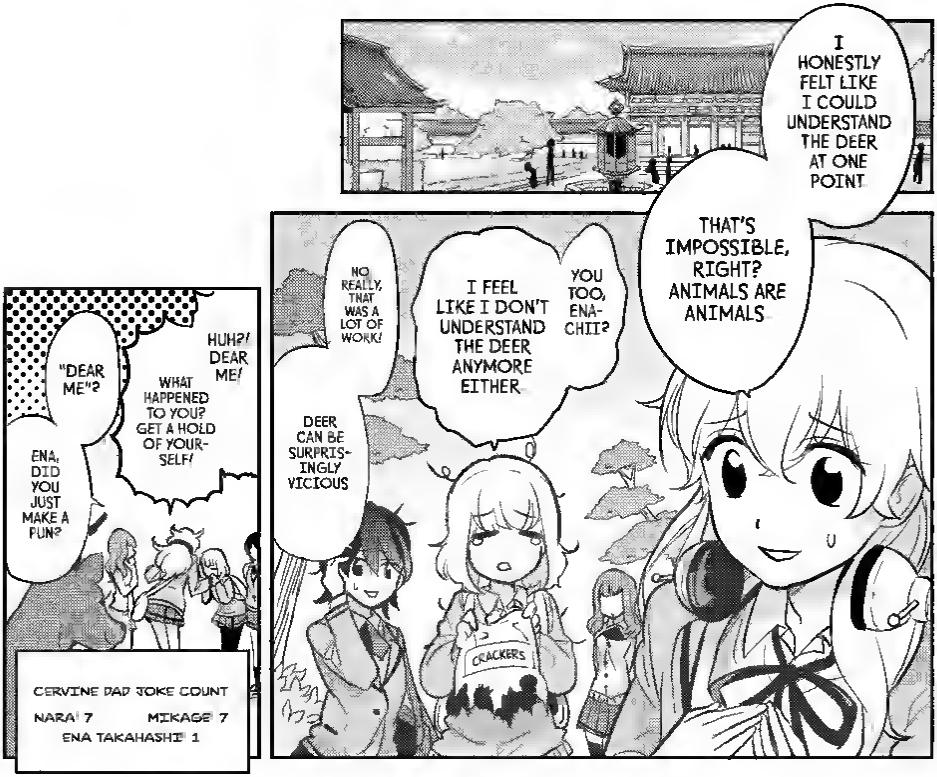
I THINK I'LL CHOOSE TO READ THE FAMOUS POEM "CAURAPAÑ-CAŚIKA,"
WRITTEN BY THE FAMOUS POET BILHANA IN THE ELEVENTH CENTURY ABOUT HIS DEARLY BELOVED.
I'M SURE IT WILL CLEAR MY MIND.
THAT IS THE ABSOLUTE EPITOME OF HAVING TO FORCE THINGS!
CERVINE DAD JOKE COUNT
NARA: 7
MIKAGE: 7
THIS IS TAKING THINGS WAY TOO FAR, NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT!
I MEAN, THIS IS A FIRST FOR ME TOO.
I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF THAT POEM BEFORE.

WELL NOW THAT WE'VE PUT OUR MINDS TO IT, LET'S GO, MIKAGE!
YEAH, THERE'S NO REASON TO STICK AROUND HERE ANY LONGER.
HUH?
ARE THEY ALREADY GONE?
MAN, JUST ONE MORE LAME JOKE AND ONE OF THEM WOULD HAVE BEEN.. THE WINNER?
CERVINE DAD JOKE COUNT
NARA: 7 MIKAGE: 7
THEY HAD SUCH A NICE BACK AND FORTH GOING ON THERE AT THE END. I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY JUST QUIT
IT WAS ALMOST AS IF SOMETHING WAS CONTROLLING THEM SOMEHOW
SOMETHING OVERWHELMING THEM WITH THE POWER OF DEER PUNS
RUSTLE
RIGHT. SOMETHING...

I CAN ALMOST FEEL SOME SORT OF SUPERNATURAL POWER FROM THEM.
BUT LOOK HOW UNCLOUDED THEIR EYES ARE!
IT WAS A DEER? WITH THAT KIND OF INFLUENCE OVER A PERSON?
IN THIS WAY, THEY ARE FORCED TO RESPECT US DEER, THE INDIGENOUS RACE OF THIS REGION.
...TO MAKE THEM REPEATEDLY PAY HOMAGE TO OUR KIND.
WE INTERFERE WITH THE THOUGHTS OF HUMANS...
GASP
YOU'RE RIGHT, CHILD OF MAN.

IS THIS THE RESULT OF MY EAVES-DROPPING?
DOES THIS MEAN I'VE LEARNED TO COMMUNI-CATE WITH THEM?
AT LEAST... THAT'S WHAT IT FEELS LIKE THEY'RE SAYING.
DEER-SAN... OH, DEER-SAN...
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO SEE SAEJIMA AGAIN!
IF IT'S AT ALL POSSIBLE, BRING HER TO ME!
SAE-JIMA!


THERE IS...
...A SLIGHT RESEMBLANCE, HOWEVER
...NOT.
...OR...


I HONESTLY FELT LIKE I COULD UNDERSTAND THE DEER AT ONE POINT
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, RIGHT? ANIMALS ARE ANIMALS
YOU TOO, ENA-CHII?
I FEEL LIKE I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE DEER ANYMORE EITHER
NO, REALLY, THAT WAS A LOT OF WORK!
DEER CAN BE SURPRISINGLY VICIOUS
CRACKERS
HUH?! DEAR ME!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!
"DEAR ME"?
ENA, DID YOU JUST MAKE A PUN?
CERVINE PAD JOKE COUNT
NARA: 7
MIKAGE: 7
ENA TAKAHASHI: 1

English Digital Edition
Chapter 064

Takahashi-san is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。
Yu Hokuo

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